

pressing enter key 204, or by tapping touch screen 103 at the location where the record is displayed, or by other means.

[0076] Referring momentarily to Fig. 5, there is shown a screen shot depicting a contacts view 500 according to one embodiment of the present invention and as may be presented on screen 102. In one embodiment, an on-screen item is highlighted 501 (for example, by displaying the item in reverse video), and the following buttons perform scrolling functions:

[0077] - scroll down button 103 moves highlight 501 down one item;

[0078] - scroll up button 104 moves highlight 501 up one item;

[0079] - holding scroll down button 103 or scroll up button 104 repeats the appropriate action at a predefined repeat rate;

[0080] - scroll down button 103 preceded by shift button 206 (or while shift button 206 is held down) moves down one page;

[0081] - scroll up button 104 preceded by shift button 206 (or while shift button 206 is held down) moves up one page;

[0082] - holding scroll down button 103 or scroll up button 104 preceded by shift button 206 (or while shift button 206 is held down) repeats the appropriate action at a predefined repeat rate;

[0083] - scroll down button 103 preceded by option button 205 (or while option button 205 is held down) moves down one category;

[0084] - scroll up button 104 preceded by option button 205 (or while option button 205 is held down) moves up one category;

[0085] - holding scroll down button 103 or scroll up button 104 preceded by option button 205 (or while option button 205 is held down) repeats the appropriate action at a predefined repeat rate;

[0086] - space bar 207 selects the highlighted item; and

[0087] - enter key 204 selects the highlighted item.

[0088] In one embodiment, device 100 also includes jog rocker controls (not shown) that perform the same functions as scroll up and scroll down buttons 104 and 103. Jog rocker control may also be pressed in to select the highlighted item.

[0089] In one embodiment, the user may move highlight 501 up and down by activating on-screen scroll arrows 502 and 503, respectively. In one embodiment, the user may select a displayed item by tapping it with a stylus or with a finger.

[0090] Once step 308 has been performed, the invention proceeds to step 309.

[0091] If in 307 filtered set 405 is empty, meaning that no directory records match the lookup string, the invention attempts 303 to convert the lookup string to a numeric dial string 404. In one embodiment, the conversion attempt 303 is performed by string handler 402, which may be a software module within device 100. Step 303 may be performed, for example, by forming a numeric sequence using secondary (numeric) values for the characters of lookup string 302. If one or more characters do not have numeric values, the invention determines that the string cannot be converted to a numeric dial string 404.

[0092] For example, given the keyboard 101 shown in Fig. 2, the lookup string "HYJJJBUEH", can be converted to the numeric string "4155557844", since each

character in the lookup string corresponds to a key 202 that has a numeric secondary value. However, the lookup string "MINSTREL" cannot be converted to a numeric string, since some of the characters do not correspond to keys 202 that have a numeric secondary value.

[0093] In one embodiment, some punctuation symbols are considered permissible as part of a telephone number, and therefore are treated as having a numeric secondary value. For example, the string "JJJFMYUI" can be converted to "555-9723", and could therefore be considered a valid telephone number. Similarly, the string "SUYIDJJFYUIH" can be converted to "(213)555-1234", and could also be considered a valid telephone number. Accordingly, references to "numeric dial string" in the following descriptions can be considered to include those strings that contain punctuation or symbols that are appropriate for telephone numbers, as well as numeric characters themselves.

[0094] The invention determines 304 whether the lookup string was successfully converted to a numeric dial string 404. If so, the invention displays 305 numeric dial string 404, for example on display screen 102. In one embodiment, numeric dial string 404 is displayed in a portion of screen 102 that is used for dialing in progress.

[0095] If, in 304, the lookup string cannot be converted to a numeric dial string (for example, if the lookup string contains at least one character that does not correspond to a key 202 having a numeric secondary value), then the invention restores 316 the lookup string and display screen 102 to their previous state.